

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A digital camera comprising;
a photosensitive region for recording an ~~a~~-optical image;
a controllable shutter for exposing the photosensitive region and for simulating an actual image acquisition without actually acquiring the image or exposing the photosensitive region; and
a timer, the timer providing a selected time delay between two or more acquisition simulated optical image acquisition and an actual image acquisition, wherein the simulation simulates the actual ~~optical~~-image acquisition without actually acquiring the image.
2. (Previously Amended) The digital camera as recited in claim 1 wherein simulated image acquisition is accompanied by sounds of typical shutter operation.
3. (Previously Amended) The digital camera as recited in claim 1 further comprising a flash mechanism, the flash mechanism receiving a low-power activation during the simulated image acquisition.
- 4-7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) A method of acquiring an image of a ~~human~~-subject with a digital camera having predetermined features, the method comprising:
instructing a digital camera to acquire an image of the subject;
simulating for the subject the acquisition of an image of the subject by the digital camera, wherein the simulation only simulates the acquisition of an image without actually acquiring the image; and
after a preselected period of time, as a result of said instruction and after said simulation, acquiring an image of the subject by the digital camera.

9. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 8 wherein simulating the acquisition of an image of the subject includes providing the sights and sounds associated with the acquisition of an image of the subject by the digital camera.

10. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in Claim 8, the method further comprising:

- providing a program associated with a processing unit for identifying the predetermined features of the acquired image of the subject;

- acquiring a series of images and applying the images to the processing unit;
- and

- analyzing the images using the program.

11. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 10 wherein an acquired image, in which the predetermined feature is identified, is stored.

12. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 10 wherein the acquiring of a series of images is provided in response to signals from a timing unit in the digital camera.

13. (Previously Amended) The digital camera as recited in claim 1 further comprising:

- a first mode of operation, the digital camera in the first mode of operation acquiring an image of the subject in response to user input; and

- a second mode of operation, the digital camera simulating acquiring an image of the subject in response to user input in the second mode of operation, the digital camera acquiring an image at a preselected time after the simulating acquiring an image.

14. (Previously Amended) The digital camera as recited in claim 1 further comprising:

- a first mode of operation, the digital camera acquiring an image of the subject in response to user input in the first mode of operation; and

- a second mode of operation, the digital camera selecting for acquisition an image of the subject having predetermined features.

15. (Original) The digital camera as recited in claim 14 wherein the predetermined features are determined by a pattern recognition program.

16. (Previously Amended) The digital camera as recited in claim 14 wherein the predetermined feature is a facial expression.